MALLING

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

Bealth of the District

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

MAIDSTONE:

"KENT MESSENGER" PRINTING WORKS ..

1904.

TO THE

MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report for the year 1903. The District under my care embraces:

| Ce | ensus 1891. | Census 1901. |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Acre s | 38,527 | 38,527 |
| Inhabited Houses | | |
| Population | 24,747 | 24,701 |

The Population estimated to the middle of the year 1903, is 24,691.

The Births registered during the year numbered 686. Of these 357 were males and 329 females. The birth-rate for the year is 27.8 per 1,000 of the population. The rates for the three preceding years, 1900, 1901, 1902, were respectively 26.4, 26.1, and 27.7. The average for the past eight years is 27.4. The rate is therefore again an average one. The birth-rate for England and Wales is 28.4, that for Rural England and Wales being 27.3.

The Deaths registered during the year numbered 318, giving a death rate of 12.9 per 1,000 of the population. The rates for the three preceding years, 1900, 1901, and 1902 were respectively 15.6, 14.8, and 14.2. The average for the past eight years is 15.2, the lowest previous rate being that for the year 1897, when it was 13.6. It will thus be seen that the rate this year is exceptionally low. The death rate for England and Wales is 15.4, that for Rural England and Wales being 14.8.

The Deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases numbered 37, two more than last year, the rate per 1,000 being 1.5. The rates for the three preceding years, 1900, 1901, and 1902 were respectively 1.9, 1.4, and 1.4.

There occurred from

| , | Measles | 7 | deaths. |
|---|--------------------|---|---------|
| | Whooping Cough | | , , |
| | Diphtheria | 3 | ,, |
| | Enteric Fever | 2 | ,, |
| | Epidemic Influenza | 5 | , , |
| | Diarrhœa | | ,, |
| | Puerperal Fever | I | , , |

Under the Act for the Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases there were reported 92 cases. The number reported in the three preceding years, 1900, 1901, and 1902, were respectively 199, 160, and 177.

The 92 cases included

25 of Scarlet Fever.
23 of Erysipelas.
4 of Enteric Fever.
7 of Smallpox.

2 of Puerperal Fever.

31 of Diphtheria.

The Scarlet Fever cases reported numbered 25, fewer by half than those reported last year. The upward wave commenced in 1899 when (from a low figure in 1898) the cases notified reached 131. In 1900 they numbered 94; in 1901, 56; and last year 51. The type has, with one or two marked exceptions, been of the mildest.

The various parishes were affected in the following order:—Offham 8 cases, Ditton 5, Mereworth 4, West Malling, Leybourne, and Addington, 2 each, East Malling and Stansted, 1 each.

The Leybourne Girl and Infant School was closed in August in consequence of the occurrence of one or two cases of Scarlet Fever, accompanied by an outbreak of epidemic sore throat of suspicious nature.

DIPHTHERIA also has been less prevalent by half than in 1902. This year 31 cases have been notified, as against 55, 53, and 68 in 1900, 1901, and 1902 respectively. The deaths numbered three, giving the heavy mortality of 10 per cent.

The various parishes were affected in the following order:—Snodland 9 cases, Ightham 4, East Malling, Birling, and Mereworth, 3 each, Wateringbury 2, Aylesford, Burham, Wouldham, Eccles, Ditton, West Malling, and Offham, 1 each. Snodland still has cases out of proportion to its size and population. It must, however, be borne in mind that it is the only small town in the district where the population is confined to a comparatively small area. Efforts are being made to cope with sanitary defects. This year a great advance has been made by refuse scavenging, and I hope that this and other improvements may show their beneficial effects more markedly next year.

I take this opportunity to put on record your decision to supply Diphtheria antitoxin free of charge in selected cases. I addressed a circular letter to the Medical men practising in the District, stating the facts, and in consequence several have availed themselves of the privilege. The early use of antitoxin, free of cost, to the patient, and free bacteriological examinations in suspicious cases of sore throat have proved great boons, and have, I believe, helped to reduce the number of cases reported.

Four cases of Typhoid Fever were reported. Here again is a reduction of 50 per cent. on last year's return. The numbers for 1900, 1901, and 1902 were respectively 8, 16, and 8.

The cases this year were each unconnected with the other. One was traced to the Rainham outbreak in connection with

oysters; two others were satisfactorily accounted for; the fourth case occurred at Ditton, and though not definitely traced to foul effluvia, due to stream pollution and stagnation, steps have been taken to stop the pollution of the stream, and the landlords have undertaken to clean out silt, etc., in the stagnant portion where the mischief occurred.

Of SMALLPOX, 7 cases were reported, as against 22 last year and 15 in 1901. The seven cases resulted from two separate outbreaks, one occurring at Snodland, and including a case at Burham; the other at Ryarsh. At Ryarsh there were three cases all in one house. The disease was imported direct from Erith, where a member of the household had been staying.

The Snodland outbreak threatened to be more serious and necessitated a prosecution under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. The history of the outbreak is interesting as showing the difficulties that have sometimes to be overcome in combating epidemics. I therefore quote the Report made at the time both to you and to the Local Government Board.

"On August 2nd a case so mild and indefinite as to be more than doubtful was seen by me at May Street, Snodland, and admitted to Hospital for observation. The patients name was Richardson. The case eventually proved to be Smallpox. No clue as to the source of the disease could be obtained, but information was not intentionally withheld so far as I know. No further case occurred in the house.

"On August 15th a case of well-marked Smallpox was reported "from Burham, the patient being the wife of the publican at the "' First and Last,' named Chapman. Enquiry from the husband "elicited no useful information, and he persisted that he had "had no recent lodgers, and that no one had recently slept in the "house, though he was pressed to give all possible information." "On the 16th I received information that a brother of Chap-"man's, living at May Street, Snodland (who was also "acquainted with Richardson), had been ill, and during con-"valescence had stayed at the 'First and Last,' at Burham. "at once visited May Street, and found the house occupied by a "Mr. and Mrs. Chapman and their family. Mr. Chapman re-"fused me permission to inspect his house, although I had "reason to suspect the presence of Smallpox, and although he "admitted he had a son ill upstairs and another son who had "been ill six weeks."

"On the 17th I returned with a Magistrate's order to inspect, having given Mr. Chapman the requisite notice of my intention. I was at once admitted without the production of the order, and found the son who had been staying at the First and Last' obviously convalescent from Smallpox, also an imbecile son upstairs still suffering from the disease. In my opinion Mr. Chapman can have had no reasonable doubt as to the nature of his son's illness after my interview with him on the 16th, although the wife subsequently stated that she

"thought it was only chicken-pox. The case of Chapman, the publican, was, I consider, even worse. He deliberately with-held from me information giving an absolute clue as to the source of his wife's illness. He must have known after his wife had developed the disease that his brother had had Small-pox, and he repeatedly denied that anyone had stayed or slept in his house—all this at a public-house, the worst possible centre for infection."

Both Chapman at Snodland and Chapman at Burham were summoned, and in each case a fine of \pounds_2 and costs was inflicted.

MEASLES has again been prevalent, especially during the early part of the year. Altogether nine Schools have been temporarily closed owing to epidemic outbreaks of measles. In some instances it sufficed to close the Infant Department only. In most cases, however, the whole School was eventually closed.

There were seven fatal cases, all in children under five years of age, lung troubles in most instances being the immediate cause.

The Schools closed were Wateringbury, Mereworth, Offham, Newhythe, Ham Hill, Snodland, Burham, Eccles, and Aylesford.

From EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA and allied conditions there occurred eight deaths, a satisfactory return, especially when the number of hop-pickers invading the District at a very fatal season is taken into account.

Of the two cases of Puerperal Fever reported, one proved fatal. Neither case presented any feature of especial interest.

The following Tables of Vital Statistics are of interest:—
GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Population | Bir | ths. | Deaths. | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--|
| Vacu | estimated to the | | | Under | One Year, | | l Ages | |
| Year. | middle of the year. | Number. | Rate. | Number. | Rate per 1,000 births registered. | Number. | Rate. | |
| 1895 | 24,728 | 725 | 29.3 | 90 | 124'1 | 403 | 16.3 | |
| 1896 | 24,723 | 667 | 2 6 ' 9 | not av | ailable. | 363 | 14.6 | |
| 1897 | 24,719 | 676 | 27.3 | 83 | 122.4 | 337 | 13.6 | |
| 1898 | 24,714 | 688 | 27.8 | 109 158.4 | | 395 | 15.9 | |
| 1899 | 24,710 | 679 | 27.4 | 100 | 147.2 | 413 | 16.4 | |
| 1900 | 24,705 | 653 | 26.4 | 92 | 140.9 | 385 | 15.6 | |
| 1901 | 24,701 | 646 | 26.12 | 94 | 145.2 | 365 | 14.8 | |
| 1902 | 24,696 | 686 | 27.7 | 76 | 110.8 | 352 | 14.5 | |
| Average 1895 to 1902. | 24,712 | 677 | 27.4 | 92 | 135.7 | 377 | 15.5 | |
| 1903 | 24,691 | 686 | 27.8 | 87 | 126.8 | 318 | 12.0 | |

DEATH TABLE.

| | | | At S | Subjoin | ed Age | s. | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Cause of Death. | All Ages. | Under I. | and under 5 | and under | and under | and under | 65 and upwards. |
| Measles | | 1 4 | 6 7 2 | | | <u> </u> | |
| Diphtheria Enteric Fever | 3 2 | | | I | | ī | |
| Epidemic Influenza Diarrhœa | 5 8 | 6 | 2 | _ | | 4 | I — |
| Enteritis | 10 | 8 | I | I | different manuage | Migratio A-Min | |
| Puerperal Fever Other Septic | I | | | | _ | I | _ |
| Diseases | I | ********* | — | — | I | | |
| Phthisis | 21 | _ | _ | Ι | 7 | 12 | I |
| Diseases | 10 | 2 | 4 | I | 3 | | _ |
| Cancer | 25 | | | _ | | 13 | 12 |
| Bronchitis | 30 | 14 | 7 | - | | 2 | 7 |
| Pneumonia | 13 | 6 | 4 | _ | | Ι | 2 |
| Cirrhosis | 4 | | - | gganjamanina | | 3 | I |
| Premature Birth | 13 | 13 | | _ | | | _ |
| Heart Diseases | 27 | I | | 1 | _ | II | 14 |
| Accidents | 10 | I | | 2 | | 4 | 3 |
| Suicides | I | | 6 | | | I | |
| All other causes | 116 | 31 | | I | 2 | 28 81 | 48 |
| All causes | 318 | 87 | 39 | 9 | 13 | 01 | 89 |

One of the notorious army blankets reached this district, and it was promptly traced and destroyed.

Various visitations and inspections have been made under the Factory and Workshops' Acts, as detailed in the appended report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I have granted certificates required by the Act in the cases of the two underground bakehouses existing in the district.

The Mid Kent Water Company continues to supply good water, as shown by the monthly analyses. The following table gives the average of six unselected analyses taken during the year, together with the maximum and minimum of each constituent occurring in any one month, and for purposes of comparison a similar table is given for the year 1900.

The figures represent parts per 100,000.

| ENGINE DINO. | | Year 1903. | | | Year 1900. | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|
| CONSTITUENT: | Average. | Maximum. | Minimum. | Average. | Maximum. | Minimum. |
| | | | | | | |
| Free Ammonia | 1100. | .004 | 0000. | 100. | .0024 | 00. |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | 0100. | 200. | 5000. | .002 | . 004 | 100. |
| Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes | 500. | 600. | ,000 | 600. | 910. | 900. |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours | .013 | 500. | 200. | 810. | 420. | .012 |
| Total Solid Residue | 23.6 | 25.0 | 9.12 | 21.88 | 24.76 | 20.64 |
| Chlorine | 8.1 | 1.85 | 1.75 | 1.65 | <i>L</i> . I | 1.2 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites | Trace. | 2 80. | Trace. | Trace. | 280. | Trace. |
| Temporary Hardness | 13.8 | 7.4I | 13.0 | 14.08 | 8.81 | 8.11 |
| Permanent Hardness | 3.35 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 4.6 | 8.1 |
| Total Hardness | 21.21 | 9.41 | 16.4 | 2.21 | 0.22 | 9.51 |

It will thus be seen that the water varies but little in composition from year to year.

No important extension of mains has been made during the year.

The following table, taken from figures supplied me by the Company, shows the number of houses receiving water and the advance made during the year:

| Total. | 2931 | 314 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| East Peckham. | 0 | 19 |
| Stansted. | 30 | 22 |
| Offham. | 31 | 29 |
| Wateri'gbury and Mereworth. | 138 | 40 |
| Ightham. | 122 | 15 |
| Ryarsh and Addington. | 146 | 35 |
| Wouldham, and Eccles. | 580 | 21 |
| East Malling and Ditton. | 498 | 6 |
| West Malling and Leybourne. | 431 | 53 |
| Snodland and Birling. | 915 | 99 |
| | Dec. 31st, 1903 Dec. 31st, 1902 | Increase for year. |

As would be expected from the decrease in the number of Infectious Cases reported during the year, there have been many fewer admissions to the Isolation Hospital.

There were 50 admissions.

| | | Average |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | No. of | Number of Days |
| Disease. | Admissions. | in Hospital. |
| Scarlet Fever | 23 | 46 |
| Diphtheria | 16 | 40 [*] |
| Smallpox | 7 | 31 |
| Typhoid Fever | I | 4 (died) |
| Observation Cases | 3 | 5 |

*The average stay of 40 days for cases of Diphtheria is high, and this result is due to one patient, who remained in hospital 163 days.

The Hospital is, so far as I am able to judge, very popular in the district, and parents are as a rule more than willing to send their children. Great credit is due both to the Sister and her subordinates in this matter. No hitch has occurred in the practical working of the Hospital during the year, and throughout I have found everything to be in readiness for dealing with an emergency.

The emergency block outside the Hospital buildings has been used during the year for small-pox cases, and on the whole has answered its purpose well.

It may be noticed that out of 25 cases of Scarlet Fever occurring in the District, 23 were treated in the Hospital. There were no so-called "Return Cases," also a point reflecting credit on the staff.

Appended is the Report of your Sanitary Inspector. The work recorded speaks for itself.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR H. ROBERTS.

The Limes, West Malling, January 18th, 1904.

Dr. A. H. Roberts, Medical Officer of Health, Malling Rural District Council.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit the following report and particulars of my work as Inspector of Nuisances, Inspector of Factories and Workshops, Inspector of Canal Boats, Inspector under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, and also as Surveyor of Buildings to the Malling Rural District Council for the year 1903.

NUISANCES.

| Accumulation of refuse | | • • • | | • • • | | 97 |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Drains blocked | • • • | • • • | ••• | • • • | • • • | 46 |
| Drains defective or insuffici | ent | • • • | • • | • • • | | 102 |
| Defective roof and gutters | • • • | ••• | • • • | 5 0 0 | • • • | 45 |
| Dangerous wells | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • | 4 |
| Dirty Dairies | • • • | | • • • | • • • | • • | I |
| Dirty cowsheds | • • • | • • • | • • • | * * * | | 5 |
| Dirty bakehouses | • • • | • • • | | • • • | ••• | 4 |
| Dirty dwellings | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | 29 |
| Dirty slaughterhouses | • • • | • • • | • • • | 9 • • | | 4 |
| Defective paving | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | 6 |
| Houses unfit for human hab | itation | • • • | • • • | | | 5 |
| Illconstructed cesspools | •• | • • • | • • • | | • • • | 4 |
| Illconstructed privies | • • • | • • • | • • • | | • • • | 89 |
| Insufficient water closets | • • • | • • • | • • • | | • • | 47 |
| Keeping animals so as to be | a nuis | ance | 0 • • | | • • • | 10 |
| Overcrowding | • • • | • • • | * * * | • • • | | 4 |
| Overflowing cesspools | • • • | • • | • • • | • • • | | 83 |
| Overflowing privies | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | • • • | 72 |
| Total | | • • • | ••• | • • • | | 657 |

Most of the cases of nuisances have been promptly abated, and those remaining were of a structural nature, and with the exception of two cottages being closed as "unfit for human habitation," the necessary works are in hand and will no doubt be completed during the present month; and it is a pleasure to report that the greater number of structural nuisances are abated by the owners carrying out the necessary works without statutory notices being served.

During the year the following cases were brought before the magistrates:—

Edith Wells, two cottages at Mereworth, unfit for human habi-

tation. The Bench made the usual closing order, with costs.

George Chapman, failing to notify case of small-pox, May Street, Snodland, fined £2 (maximum penalty) and 9s. costs.

Ernest John Chapman, failing to notify case of small-pox at "First and Last," Burham, fined £2 with 13s. costs.

John Hills, for breach of the Council's bye-laws relating to nuisances, emptying contents of cesspool down water-table at Baker Street, Burham, fined 10s. and 19s. 6d. costs.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging for the parishes of East Malling, Ditton and Wouldham have, in my opinion, been carried out by the several contractors in a satisfactory manner. There has been during the year an abnormal rainfall, and it has rather taxed the contractors to deal with the emptying of cesspools where a part of the surface water has been allowed to discharge into the cesspools, but I am pleased to state that the owners of property are dealing with this. The Contractors have in all cases, when any complaints have been made, been very prompt in complying with the notices served them.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

I have during the year visited and inspected the several slaughterhouses in the district, and considering there are no regulations or bye-laws in force they are kept in good condition, and I have only had four occasions to call upon the occupiers to cleanse and limewhite the premises.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I have during the year visited the various Factories and Workshops, and during the year I have reported to you two underground bakehouses, one at East Malling, occupied by Mr. F. Colegate; and one at Ham Hill, Birling, occupied by Mrs. Ann Wood; and the necessary structural work to keep the surface water out of bakehouse has been satisfactorily completed. I have called upon the occupiers of four bakehouses to cleanse and limewhite their bakehouses, which has been done. There are at the present time registered under the Act 22 Factories and 54 Workshops.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

I have inspected the various Dairies and Cowsheds during the year, and I have called upon the occupiers to cleanse and limewhite 5 cowsheds and 1 dairy, and on my again visiting I found the work of cleansing and limewhiting done.

Hop-pickers' Dwellings.

During the year I visited and inspected the Hopper Huts, Sheds, and Tents, and I found that the housing of the hop-picker shows a great improvement. This year was especially free from infectious cases there being only one case as compared with 6 cases in the previous year.

CANAL BOATS.

I herewith report that during the year I have from time to time visited the various wharves and sidings in the district, but have been unable to make many inspections in consequence of the Masters in charge leaving the vessels directly they are moored to the wharves or sidings. I have made 16 inspections during the year, finding only one vessel contravening the Act. The said contravention is now being remedied.

The general condition of the vessels inspected was good, also clean and fairly well kept, and I am pleased to report that there were no infectious cases to be dealt with.

The contravention of the Act referred to above occurred on board the "Sarah," R213, Rochester. Certificate not produced, the master, William Wood, stating that he had not received one. Also name, number, and word "Registered" were not legible.

NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

During the year the Council have had before them for consideration 62 plans (as compared with 61 in the previous year). Of these 59 were approved, 1 not approved, and 2 referred back. The plans approved were for the following buildings:—

- 29 houses as compared with 63 in 1902.
 - 2 houses and shops as compared with two in 1902.
- 39 additions to houses as compared with 23 in 1902.
- 12 stables and workshops as compared with 10 in 1902.
 - I cowshed as compared with 2 in 1902.
 - 3 shops and stores.
 - I Parish Room.
 - 1 addition to Schools.
 - 1 addition to Brewery.
 - 1 bungalow built in 1902.
 - 1 office
- 9 9
- 1 laundry
- ,,
- I conservatory,

89 buildings in 1903, as compared to 104 buildings in 1902.

I remain, yours faithfully,

CHARLES SOUTER,

Inspector of Nuisances, &c.